News Releases
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Newfoundland Labrador

Tourism, Culture and Recreation
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Visual Arts Sector Receives Provincial Support

The Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, today announced the approval of more than $68,000 in funding support for Newfoundland and Labrador's visual arts sector through the province's Cultural Economic Development Program (CEDP).

"We have long been aware of the unique conditions within Newfoundland and Labrador which inspire visual artists from both this province and around the world," said Minister Jackman. "The Provincial Government's continued investment in the visual arts sector is reflective of our commitment to nurturing the creative spirit and to supporting the talented artists who continue to contribute to our cultural, social and economic development."

Minister Jackman said Budget 2008 provided $55,000 to Visual Artists Newfoundland and Labrador (VANL), a non-profit, umbrella organization for visual artists in the province, and the provincial affiliate for the national artists' organization, Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front des artistes canadiens. The funding will be used for general operations, advocacy activities, professional development programs, and other initiatives which benefit visual artists throughout the province.

Other CEDP support provided to the visual arts community includes:

- $10,000 to Eastern Edge Gallery in St. John's to offset costs associated with its 2008-09 marketing and promotional campaign, including production of exhibition catalogues, programming inserts, brochures, posters, website design and video series initiative.
- $3,400 to visual artist Audrey Feltham of Deer Lake, for costs associated with her exhibition, *Red Shoes: The Invisible Landscape* at the Mary E. Black Gallery in Halifax, Nova Scotia and at the Print Studio in Hamilton, Ontario.

Sara Tilley, executive director of VANL, noted the Provincial Government is the sole source of sustained funding for the organization, and this support ensures VANL can continue to work on behalf of all artists in this province.

"We are delighted the Provincial Government continues to invest in Newfoundland and Labrador's visual artists by funding VANL and its efforts to improve socio-economic conditions for artists – whether they are our members or not," said Ms. Tilley. "This support shows that the province is aware of the crucial role the arts play in the culture and economy of our province, and that it is dedicated to improving the conditions under which our artists work."

With the recent announcement of significant cuts to federal arts programming, Minister Jackman said the $17.6 million committed through the Provincial Government's cultural strategy, *Creative Newfoundland and Labrador* (2006) is more important to the local arts community than ever before.

"The irony, of course, is that we have strengthened the provincial arts sector through increased investment over the past three years, enabling more professional artists the opportunity to leverage funding from federal programming – programming that has now been reduced or eliminated," said Minister Jackman.

The Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation also supports the visual arts sector through the Arts and Letters Awards Program, and through funding provided to the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC) and the $125,000 Art Bank Program, administered by The Rooms.

CEDP projects are selected based on the strength of the business plans, vision and potential for development within the sector. For more information on the CEDP program and application